

From: Andrew Neely
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/28/02 5:22pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

As a longtime computer user, and recent professional who uses both Windows and Macintosh both at work and at home, I feel that without a doubt, Microsoft is a predatory monopoly. I have used many different software products, and it has only been in the last three years or so, during the intense pressure that the DOJ initially brought to bear with it's antitrust lawsuit that I've even seen anything in the way of alternate OS offerings making their way onto store shelves and into OEM computers.

Microsoft has not only dominated the OS market to the detriment of its competition, but to that of its end users as well. That blackhat hackers have been able to repeatedly exploit the same set of vulnerabilities in the close relationship between recent versions of Windows and their mail clients, Outlook and Outlook Express, is inexplicable. Simply changing either piece of software, or both, would close a major security opening in it's products. However, not only has Microsoft failed to address this in a meaningful way, it has managed to avoid all liability to what for all intents and may be thought of as a design flaw. Had a car company's mistakes cost the same amount of lost man hours and money as Microsoft's oversights have, year after year, I doubt that they would even continue to operate as a company, much less as the most powerful one in its industry.

As a United States citizen I ask that my opinion be firmly registered that Microsoft can only be brought to heel as a good corporate citizen by direct oversight and measures designed to cripple the leverage that its Windows brand of operating systems software gives it over competitors. Simply allowing this company to give away so many billion dollars worth of retail software is ineffective. This will not only not cost the company anything like the sticker price of the donations, but in fact allow it to more firmly entrench itself into area it already has inroads into. Monetary damages should be settled in CASH, and the company should be subjected to direct oversight of its activities for at least five years. This seems to be the outside amount of time for it to develop a generation of products all the way across the board, and tying its hands for this length of time will help other companies to get a foothold they badly need to compete.

Sincerely,
Andrew Neely